REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 21-31 are added and now pending.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-11 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Joao (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,405) in view of Greenspan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,247,065).

The Claimed Invention

To the extent that the obviousness rejection might be applied to the newly added claims, it is respectfully traversed because the proposed combination of Joao in view of Greenspan et al. does not teach or suggest a system based on an open client-server architecture that features at least one client or user interface having a messaging control for exchanging messages and communicating with respective messaging control and interface control servers using a common messaging control protocol for controlling a plurality of environmental maintenance equipment, as now recited in independent claim 21. The common messaging control protocol may include transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP) and text messaging, as recited in dependent claims 2-3. These features are described in the patent application, among other places, in the paragraph bridging pages 3-4.

The use of the common messaging control protocol is an

important contribution to the state of the art. For example, the inventor recognizes in the patent application, page 1, lines 5-20, that automatic environment maintenance systems were known in the art. However, the inventor points out in the patent application, page 2, lines 9-11, that these systems have a serious problem in that "there is no mechanism for integrating separate software packages because the devices are "incompatible" and require different user interfaces. Consequently, "a user must learn to use each software package that controls a device or set of devices." See also the comprehensive discussion on page 2 through page 3, line 5. The invention provides a solution to this problem by providing a system based on the open, client-server architecture using the <u>common messaging control protocol</u> to create custom web browser interfaces to various devices, as described in the patent application, page 3, lines 12-14.

The Proposed Combination

In contrast to the claimed invention, <u>Joao</u> discloses an anti-theft system for vehicles, boats, airplanes and snowmobiles, as well as an anti-theft location system, including in Figure 1 apparatus 1 having a centralized CPU 4 for interfacing a vehicle ignition, fuel pump and other equipment 7, 9 and 11 to a transmitter 2, or to a home and/or personal computer 150 (Figure 5). The home and/or personal computer 150 may interface the apparatus via a website 520 and server computer 510 on the

Internet.

However, in contrast to the claimed invention, <u>Joao</u>'s vehicle ignition, fuel pump and other equipment 7, 9, 11 all share one CPU 4, and thus do not have at least one client or user interface having a messaging control for exchanging messages and communicating with respective messaging control and interface control servers <u>using a common messaging control protocol</u> for controlling a plurality of environmental maintenance equipment, as claimed herein. In the Office Action, the reasoning on page 3, lines 9-11, clearly recognizes that <u>Joao</u> does not teach a plurality of servers. Moreover, <u>Joao</u> neither recognizes the prior art problem related to automatic environment maintenance systems nor suggests a solution thereto, especially a solution like that provided by the inventor to use <u>a common messaging control protocol</u> to exchange messages and communicate between at least one client or user interface having a messaging control and respective messaging controls and interface control servers associated with such a plurality of environmental maintenance equipment, as claimed herein.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that <u>Greenspan et al.</u> does not make up for this deficiency in <u>Joao</u>'s teaching so the proposed combination does not result in the claimed invention. For example, <u>Greenspan et al.</u> discloses a messaging platform process as set forth in the steps shown in Figures 1 and 3. <u>Greenspan et al.</u>, column 3, lines 1-8, merely discloses the

use of text messaging, wherein an email may contain a text
message plus an icon in the first page. Clearly, similar to
Joao, Greenspan et al. does not suggest using a common messaging
control protocol to exchange messages and communicate between at
least one client or user interface having a messaging control and
respective messaging controls and interface control servers
associated with controlling a plurality of environmental
maintenance equipment, as claimed herein, which is the whole
thrust of the invention. Moreover, similar to Joao, Greenspan et
al. neither recognizes the prior art problem related to automatic
environment maintenance systems, nor suggests a solution thereto,
especially a solution like that provided by the inventor to use a
common messaging control protocol to exchange messages and
communicate between at least one client or user interface having
a messaging control and respective messaging controls and
interface control servers associated with controlling such a
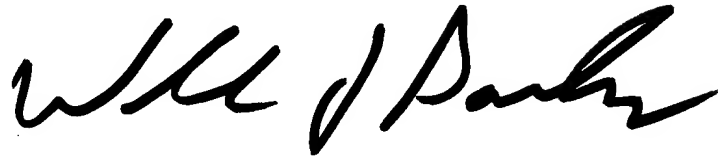plurailty of environmental maintenance equipment, as claimed
herein.

Dependent claims 22-28 depend from claim 21, contain all the
limitations therein, and recite other new and unique features of
the claimed invention, such as those discussed above.

Claim 29 is a method claim having limitations similar to
that recited in independent claim 21.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejection, to the extent it might be applied to the newly added claims, should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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